Exploration of oil in coastal Orissa

3206. MISS MABEL REBELLO: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that ONGC and OIL have major off-shore oil banks of the Orissa coast which happens to be on the very path traversed by millions of Olive Ridleys for decades every year to come to Gahirmatha and lay eggs;

(b) whether it is a fact that NGOs involved in nature conservation have already written to his Ministry explaining the delicate nature of the predicament; and

(c) if so, the details of action taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (SHRI RAM NAIK): (a) No reserves of hydrocarbons have been established as yet in Mahanadi basin, both in the onshore and offshore areas. However, in the last two years six blocks have been awarded to various public sector and private sector oil companies in the offshore and onshore areas of Mahanadi basin under New Exploration Licensing Policy.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

Profit on sale of petroleum products

3207. SHRI C.O. POULOSE: Will the Minister of PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS be pleased to state:

(a) the details of the petroleum products gained (domestic & imports separately) and sold during the last three years;